

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 FEA-02 SCI-06

OMB-01 DRC-01 CU-04 AID-20 /145 W

----- 103143

R 150845Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9890

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 162

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TANAKA

TAGS: PFOR, SN, JA

REF: SINGAPORE 149

1. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR UOMOTO, PRIMEMINISTER TANAKA CAME TO SINGAPORE EXPECTING TO DISCUSS WITH PM LEE A WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TO SEA GENERALLY, SUCH AS VIET-NAM, TRADE AND INVESTMENT, RELATIONS WITH CHINA, ETC. TANAKA WAS SURPRISED TO FIND THAT ALL LEE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS OIL. VIRTUALLY THEIR ENTIRE ONE-AND A-HALF MEETING WAS TAKEN UP BY THIS SUBJECT.

2. LEE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE
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OIL SHORTAGE ON THE WORLD ECONOMY AND RXDE#AND STRESSED

SINGAPORE'S VULNERABILITY IN LIGHT OF ITS TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED MATERIALS, MUCH OF WHICH COMES FROM JAPAN. IN VIEW OF JAPAN'S EFFORTS TO CONSERVE ENERGY BY RESTRICTING PRODUCTION, LEE ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT SINGAPORE WOULD BE TREATED FAIRLY IN THE EXPORT OF BASIC MATERIALS SUCH AS STEEL, CEMENT, PLASTICS AND NEWSPRINT. TANAKA ASKED FOR SIMILAR ASSURANCES THAT JAPAN WOULD GET FAIR TREATMENT IN THE EXPORT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM SINGAPORE. APPARENTLY BOTH STRESSED THE NEED FOR A MORE COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO THE ENERGY PROBLEM.

3. IN LIGHT OF DIFFICULTY JAPAN HAS WITH THAILAND ON ITS BILATERAL TRADE IMBALANCE, TANAKA WAS READY TO DISCUSS SAME ISSUE HERE WHERE JAPAN ENJOYS A 4-TO-1 TRADE ADVANTAGE. UOMOTO SAID THEY WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TH*T THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED.

4. UOMOTO CONFIRMED THAT SINGAPORE STUDENTS DID NOT ASK TO SEE TANAKA OR MAKE ANY OTHER EFFORT BEYOND PRESENTING MILD PETITION TO EMBASSY REFERRED TO IN REFTEL.

5. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT SINGAPOREUNIVERSITY STUDENTS DID NOT MOUNT A DEMONSTRATION DURING THE VISIT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE ISN'T OPPOSITION HERE TO JAPANESE BUSINESS METHODS. BY COINCIDENCE, A SEMINAR ON "JAPAN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA" WAS HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE ON JANUARY 12, THE LAST DAY OF THE TANAKA VISIT. THIS GATHERING, WHICH WAS PLANNED BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, WAS HEADED BY A PANEL COMPOSED OF ACADEMICS FROM JAPAN, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND. THE AUDIENCE VOICED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ANTI-JAPANESE RHETORIC, BERATING THE JAPANESE ON THE PANEL FOR THEIR COUNTRYMEN'S "RAPACIOUS ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR," "UNETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES," AND ELITISM. THE AUDIENCE ALSO SHOWED CONSIDERABLE FEAR THAT JAPAN WOULD RESORT TO MILITARISM TO ENSURE HER SUPPLY LINES, AN ASSERTION FIRMLY DENIED BY THE JAPANESE. ALL IN ALL, THE PICTURE PAINTED BY THE AUDIENCE AND NON-JAPANESE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL ALIKE WAS OF THE "UGLY JAPANESE." ONLY THE SINGAPORE REPRESENTATIVE, FORMER UN AMBASSADOR TOMMY CONFIDENTIAL

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KOH, ROSE TO THEIR DEFENSE. HIS POINT WAS THAT "TO BE FAIR, THE JAPANESE ARE ONLY PLAYING BY THE RULES OF THE GAME SET BY OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. IF WE WANT THE RULES CHANGED, WE SHOULD PRESSURE OUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS." OTHER THAN THIS ADVICE, NO CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS EMERGED. PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC AID WERE GENERALLY SCORNEED AND THE PROVISION OF A SHIP FOR STUDENT CULTURAL INTERCHANGE WAS VIEWED AS MERELY A

PUBLICITY STUNT.
CRONK

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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